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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6811
BILL NUMBER: HB 1306

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 11, 2012
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Participation of Property Owner in Tax Referendum.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Hinkle
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: <u>X</u> GENERAL
  DEDICATED
  FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill provides that a property owner (an owner of real property, a mobile home assessed as personal property, or a manufactured home assessed as personal property) of property located in a political subdivision may vote in a referendum on whether the political subdivision may issue debt for certain capital projects or whether a school may impose a school referendum property tax levy. (Current law allows a property owner to sign a petition to initiate a petition remonstrance or referendum process or to sign a petition or remonstrance regarding a controlled project.)

The bill specifies conditions that a property owner must satisfy in order to vote. The bill provides that only one vote is permitted for each property owner regardless of the character of the ownership interest, the number of parcels that comprise the property, or the number of properties that a particular property owner owns within the political subdivision.

The bill requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to establish a sealed paper ballot system for a property owner to vote. The bill requires the State Board of Accounts (SBOA), the county voter registration office, the county auditor, and the circuit court clerk to carry out various duties as part of the referendum process.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Secretary of State-* The SOS would be able to adopt rules within the normal course of business in order to fulfill the requirements to establish a voting procedure for property owners under the bill.

State Board of Accounts- It is likely the SBOA would likely be able to design a ballot form within existing

resources. If electronic sending of the form to voter registration offices would suffice the delivery requirement of the bill, then the SBOA would likely have minimal printing costs for the form itself. Without additional appropriation outside the bill specifically for these purposes, the SBOA would have to develop the form within their existing level of resources.

If requested by the voter registration office, the SBOA could require additional expenditures for instate travel to deliver the ballots. Given the SBOA conducts much state travel within the scope of their official business, it is likely the SBOA's current resources would be adequate for the additional travel this bill may require.

Background Information- During FY 2011, the SBOA expended $437,193 on instate mileage reimbursement to their field examiners.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Several local government agencies would have additional responsibilities as a result of the bill. Those agencies are the county auditor, county voter registration office, and the circuit court clerk.

The county auditor would have to verify that a person voting does in fact own land within the corporate boundaries of the local unit holding a referendum or that the ballot is filed for a different property within the political subdivision that is also owned by the same property owner. This provision would require additional administrative responsibilities on existing auditor staffs. The impact of this provision on local expenditures would depend on availability of staff time and current resources available to the auditor, voter registration office, and clerk.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: SOS, SBOA

Local Agencies Affected: County auditor, circuit court clerk, county voter registration office.

Information Sources: State Auditor's data, 6/30/2011.

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